

Title (en)

Method and system for representation and use of shape information in geographic databases

Title (de)

Verfahren und Vorrichtung zur Darstellung und Verwendung von Forminformation in geographischen Datenbanken

Title (fr)

Procédé et système pour la représentation et l'utilisation d'information de forme dans des bases de données géographiques

Publication

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Application

EP 98309731 A 19981126

Priority

US 97921197 A 19971126

Abstract (en)

[origin: EP0919788A1] A system and method for storing data to represent other-than-straight map features in a computer-readable geographic database for use in a navigation system. For geographic features that are other-than-straight, a curve generated by a computable function is fitted to an image of the other-than-straight map feature. The computable function may be a polynomial equation whose shape is defined by its coefficients. In one embodiment, the polynomial equation is a type of spline curve, in particular a Bezier curve whose shape is defined by control points. The coefficients of the polynomial equation are associated with data representing the other-than-straight feature. In the case in which the polynomial equation is a Bezier curve, the control points for generating the Bezier curve are associated with the data representing the other-than-straight feature. These control points are stored in the geographic database and are used in displaying the other-than-straight geographic feature. Use of a computable function to generate other-than-straight geographic features and storing parameters to be used by the computable function has the potential for significantly reducing the storage requirements for representing other-than-straight features in a geographic database. According to a further aspect, normalized control point pairs are stored in a data structure and an index reference into the data structure is associated with data used to represent the other-than-straight geographic features, thereby resulting in further reduction in data storage requirements. <IMAGE>

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